United Nations A/55/785

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2001
English
Original: French

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 8 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Burma/Myanmar issued on 8 February 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union (EU) welcomes the initial contacts that have taken place between the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, Secretary-General of the National League for Democracy (NLD). The EU considers these developments to be the most interesting since 1990. They need to be encouraged.

At the same time, the EU notes that the political situation in Burma/Myanmar remains worrying. It emphasizes the need for concrete measures leading to national reconciliation, democracy and the respect of human rights, in line with the common position of the EU and of General Assembly resolutions. The EU sincerely hopes that the confidential contacts that have started between SPDC and NLD will lead to real progress in all these areas. The EU stands ready to support further developments in these contacts. The EU also welcomes the recent release from detention of a number of opposition activists.

The EU reiterates its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy Tan Sri Razali Ismail, upon whom the Troika called in connection with its mission to Rangoon/Yangon.

The European Union welcomes the contacts that its Troika mission had with all the parties during its visit to Burma/Myanmar from 28 to 31 January 2001.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.